

**Executive Committee for Highway Safety  
Seat Belt Working Group  
Meeting Minutes – Mtg. #5  
March 30, 2005**

**Location:**

GHSP Office, 215 E. Lane Street @ 1:00 p.m.

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Darrell Jernigan	Kevin Lacy	Jill Lucas	Major Tom Adkins
Mark McDonald	Stephen Lowry	Bill Hall	Cliff Braam

**Scribe:**

Cliff Braam

**Minutes:**

- The meeting began at approximately 1:00 p.m.

**Task I – All Inclusive Safety Belt Strategy**

**Executive Committee's Response to Strategy**

Darrell reported that the ECHS was very supportive of the strategy as written. The committee voted unanimously to move the strategy forward as written, thus seeking the appropriate legislation.

**Draft of Legislation**

Kevin and his staff drafted the appropriate legislation needed to amend present general statutes to reflect the changes outlined by the strategy. Darrell met with Senator Purcell and the Senator agreed to sponsor the legislation required to make the desired amendments. The bill has since been introduced (Senate Bill 774) and has been referred to the Judiciary II Committee.

The copy of the bill on the web, does not include the commercial motor vehicle exemption or any information about adding an insurance point for non-compliance. The bill is presently being amended to add the CMV exemption. These changes will be presented when the bill goes to committee.

Legislation is not required to add insurance points. As long as the legislation does not explicitly prohibit insurance points for non-compliance, then this addition can be sought through the insurance board. Commissioner Long would likely take the lead on this, and he is supportive of this component of the strategy.

**Status of Legislation**

As mentioned above, the senate bill has been referred to the Judiciary II Committee.

**Note:** After the meeting, Darrell talked to Senator Purcell and scheduled a follow up meeting with him. On March 31, Darrell, Kevin, Bill and Cliff met with Senator Purcell and his staff to discuss the appropriate amendments to the legislation. The group then met with the Senator's contact that drafts the legislation and discussed line item by line item the changes that needed to be made. These included:

1. All references to "passengers under the age of 16" have been changed to read "passengers over the age of 16". This will prevent conflicts between this legislation and the Child Passenger Safety legislation.
2. The exemption for Commercial Motor Vehicles will be removed.
3. The item requiring that safety belts become part of the vehicle inspection process will be removed. This was seen as a highly likely place to pick up additional opposition to the legislation from the automobile/inspection industry. The feeling being that they would not be supportive of this since this will require more time to inspect a vehicle. It was deemed that 1) the advantages of getting this included were far less than the chance of raising additional opposition and 2) the operator of the vehicle or the adult passengers will be responsible for ensuring that they are properly secured under the other provisions of the legislation.

Senator Purcell encouraged the group to talk with other members of the Senate and House to inform them of the purpose and importance of the legislation. Darrell and Cliff will likely be making a presentation to the Judiciary II committee in the next few weeks.

#### **Next Step; Resolution of Support from the ECHS**

Darrell discussed with the group the possibility of drafting a resolution of support from the ECHS for the All Inclusive Belt strategy. There was various discussion about the resolution and Kevin volunteered to have his staff draft the resolution and send it to the group for comments and feedback.

#### **Task II – School Parking Program**

Darrell gave the group an overview of the School Parking Privilege Program. To get more teen drivers and passengers buckled up, the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) has developed the High School Parking Privilege Agreement. The pilot project, which will be implemented in selected districts during the 2005-06 school year, will link on-campus parking privileges to required safety belt use. Students who do not buckle up, and/or whose passengers are not safely restrained, risk losing on-campus parking privileges .

Darrell said that over 50 schools had signed up to date and that more were expected to join the effort.

#### **Task III – Update on Click It Campaigns**

Jill gave the group an update/overview of the upcoming spring campaign and said that there was going to be a special emphasis placed on compliance in pick up trucks. She said that there was going to be a pick up truck demo from the NHTSA and that N.C. had been selected as one of the demo sites. Part of this effort will also involve specific messaging and will include federally funded advertising. There will be a national ad that will be aired in N.C. with a separate ad focusing on pick up truck running two weeks prior to the campaign. Jill said that N.C. will likely continue to run the ad and that robust earned media will be developed. This is an opportunity to hit home with this over represented group.

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: TBD; We will follow the progress of the pending legislation. Final outcome of the legislation will set the agenda for future group meetings.